CLAIMS

I/We claim:

1. A networked imaging system, comprising:

a first communications network;

a second communications network, different than the first communications network;

a first storage device interconnected to the first network;

a second storage device interconnected to the second network;

a first image processor interconnected to the first network, and configured to generate first image data representing a first image and to write the first image data to the first storage device;

a second image processor interconnected to the second network, and configured to generate second image data representing a second image;

a first print driver interconnected to the first and the second networks, and configured to write the second image data to the second storage device and to generate first drive instructions corresponding to the written first image data;

a second print driver interconnected to the second network, and configured to generate second drive instructions corresponding to the written second image data;

a first image maker configured to generate a representation of the first image in accordance with the first drive instructions; and

a second image maker configured to generate a representation of the second image in accordance with the second drive instructions.

1 2. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first and the second image maker are the same image maker.

1 3. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first image maker is a first imagesetter; and

3   the second image maker is a second imagesetter, different than

4 the first imagesetter.

1 4. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first print driver is further configured to read the first

3 image data from the first storage device via the first

4 communications network and to write the second image data to the

5 second storage device via the second communications network.

5. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

   the first image processor is further configured to transmit,

to the first print driver via the second communications network, a

message indicative of the first image data having been written to

the first storage device.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

   the first communications network includes a respective

3 dedicated link, having a first bandwidth, between the first image

4 processor and the first storage device, and between the first print

5 driver and the first storage device;

6   the second communications network includes links having a

7 second bandwidth; and

8   the first bandwidth is greater than the second bandwidth.

1 7. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first image processor is further configured to compress

3 the first image data;

4   the written first image data is the compressed first image

5 data;

6   the first print driver is further configured to decompress the

7 written first image data, to compress the generated second image

8 data, and to process the decompressed first image data to generate

9 the first drive instructions; and

10   the written second image data is the compressed second image

11 data.

1 8. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the second image processor is further configured to generate

3 the second image data in a first format;

4   the first print driver is further configured to reformat the

5 second image data from the first format to a second format and to

6 compress reformatted second image data; and

7   the written second image data is the compressed reformatted

8 second image data.

1 9. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first print driver is further configured to compress the

3 second image data; and

4   the written second image data is the compressed second image

5 data.

1 10. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the written second image data is in a first format;

3   the first print driver is further configured to reformat the

4 written second image data from the first format to a second format;

5 and

6   the second print driver is further configured to process the
7   reformatted second image data to generate the second drive
8   instructions.

1   11. A system according to claim 1, wherein:

2   the first image processor is further configured to convert a
3   first sequence of characters representing the first image into a
4   second sequence of characters, including a predefined compression
5   code for one of white image data and black image data, in order to
6   generate the first image data;
7   the written first image data includes the second sequence of
8   characters; and

9   the first print driver is further configured to covert the
10 written second sequence of characters into the first sequence of
11 characters based on the predefined compression code in order to
12 generate the first drive instructions.

1   12. A system according to claim 11, wherein:

2   the first image processor is further configured to covert the
3   first sequence of characters by reading a first character in the
4   first sequence of characters, to determine if the read first
5   character represents the one of the white and the black image data,
6   if so, to read one or more characters occurring immediately
7   subsequent to the first character in the first sequence of
8   characters, to determine if the read one or more characters match
9   the read first character, and, if so, to generate the second
10 sequence of characters to represent the matching one or more
11 characters.

1   13 A method for generating a representation of an image,
2   comprising:

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3   writing first image data, representing a first image, to a

4   first storage device via a first communications network;

5   retrieving the written first image data from the first storage

6   device via the first communications network;

7   generating first instructions corresponding to the retrieved

8   first image data;

9   writing second image data, representing a second image, to a

10   second storage device;

11   retrieving the written second image data from the second

12   storage device;

13   transmitting the retrieved second image data via a second

14   communications network;

15   generating   second   instructions   corresponding   to   the

16   transmitted second image data;

17   generating a representation of the first image in accordance

18   with the first instructions; and

19   generating a representation of the second image in accordance

20   with the second instructions.

14. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2   transmitting the first instructions via the second network;

3   and

4   transmitting the second instructions via the second network;

5   wherein   the   representation   of   the   first   image   and   the

6   representation of the second image are generated in accordance with

7   the transmitted first instructions and the transmitted second

8   instructions by a single image maker.

1   15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the second image data

2   is   written   to   the   second   storage   device   via   the   second

3   communications network.

1   16. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2   transmitting, via the second communications network, a message

3   indicative of the first image data having been written to the first

4   storage device.

1   17. A method according to claim 13, wherein:

2   the first communications network has an associated first

3   bandwidth;

4   the second communications network has an associated second

5   bandwidth; and

6   the first bandwidth is greater than the second bandwidth.

18. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

    compressing the first image data, wherein the written first

image data is the compressed first image data and the retrieved

first image data is the written compressed first image data;

    decompressing the retrieved first image data; and

    processing the decompressed first image data to generate the

first drive instructions.

19. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2   reformatting the second image data from a first format to a

3   second format; and

4   compressing the reformatted second image data;

5   wherein the written second image data and the retrieved

6   written second image data are the compressed reformatted second

7   image data.

1   20. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2   compressing the second image data;

3 wherein the written second image data and the retrieved

4 written second image data are the compressed second image data.

1 21. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2 reformatting the written second image data from a first format

3 to a second format, wherein the transmitted second image data is

4 the reformatted second image data; and

5 processing the reformatted second image data to generate the

6 second drive instructions.

1 22. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:

2 generating the first image data by converting a first sequence

3 of characters representing the first image into a second sequence

4 of characters, including a predefined compression code for one of

5 white image data and black image data, wherein the written first

6 image data includes the second sequence of characters; and

7 converting the written second sequence of characters into the

8 first sequence of characters based on the predefined compression

9 code in order to generate the first drive instructions.

1 23. A method according to claim 22, wherein:

2 the first sequence of characters are converted by reading a

3 first character in the first sequence of characters, determining if

4 the read first character represents the one of the white and the

5 black image data, if so, reading one or more characters occurring

6 immediately subsequent to the first character in the first sequence

7 of characters, determining if the read one or more characters match

8 the read first character, and, if so, generating the second

9 sequence of characters to represent the matching one or more

10 characters.